Good Read

A Story of the Mercury Seven

I am not one who usually tends to be picking up a book automatically and finding excitement. I'm sure like many of you I enjoy reading books about flight. The Right Stuff, by Tom Wolfe, is a great book that takes a deep rewind into the efforts to create jet powered aircraft and the beginning of the space program. I believe that this book pays respect to those who dedicated their lives to making these innovations and are the reason why we can travel almost anywhere we want as well as have people in space.

Our Story begins following World War two, the United States has won the war. When a war ends, soldiers need jobs. The pilots went home and began to realize that they needed to make faster aircraft. This would require a major innovation since they could not generate more power using a combustion engine. Like I said before the book focuses on the pilots who made up the Mercury Seven. The group of men who were apart of the team were; Gordon Cooper, Deke Slayton, Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, Scott Carpenter, Wally Schirra, and John Glen. These were Americas heroes and icons in the eye of the American people as well as the government.

I believe that the title plays in quite well throughout the book. To be a successful pilot, you must have the right stuff. This lesson can apply to anything in life I believe. Whether you're applying it at work or on a sporting team and even at home. It serves as a good lesson throughout the book that grows a little bigger as you meet each pilot. This would follow pilots' home as they were looked at as idols by the American people. Tom Wolfe talks about how the media portrayed these men as well. When you add it all up these men were testing their bodies to the physical limit day in and day out and they also faced the public media as starts and kept their mission.

The entire goal of reaching space was to make it there. This was the goal of the pilots too but there was some speculation that they were not needed. Which makes sense, why couldn't they just fly an animal or even just send it up without anything inside. It was

decided by President Eisenhower to use pilots not animals. The book will discuss how politics made their way into the Mercury Seven and what it caused. However, it was the bravery and commitment from the pilots to continue risking their lives for this mission.

In conclusion as an aviation enthusiast, I must recommend that you read this book. I really enjoy learning about aircraft and their origin, and I did not know much till I read this book. The book shines a light on the faces of the Mercury Seven who were responsible for the development of the space program to what it is today.